

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1227

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 7929

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY TREASURY INTERNATIONAL MONETARY
AFFAIRS COOPER FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, LA

SUBJECT: LAO RECONSTRUCTION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

REF: (A) PARIS 24706

(B) STATE 67787

(C) VIENTIANE 1119

(D) VIENTIANE 2352

(E) VIENTIANE 2681

1. I HAVE READ WITH GREAT INTEREST YOUR REPORT ABOUT
OCTOBER 17 INDOCHINA GROUP MEETING (REF A) AND CONCLUDE
THAT THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE CONSENSUS FOR FORMATION OF
A LAOS DONOR GROUP EVEN IF IT HAS TO BE ORGANIZED OUTSIDE
THE OVERALL INDOCHINA DONOR'S GROUP. IN OUR REFERENCED
CABLES GOING BACK TO EARLY THIS YEAR WE HAVE FORESEEN
THIS POSSIBILITY AND HAVE RECOMMENDED, IF NECESSARY,
THE DESIRABILITY OF A SEPARATE DONOR GROUP FOR LAOS.

2. DURING DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL'S VISIT TO LAOS
IN HIS FORMER CAPACITY AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR EAST
ASIA IN EARLY FEBRUARY, WE ALSO DISCUSSED THE MERITS
OF FORMING SUCH A GROUP AND USED AS BASIS OF OUR
DISCUSSION A MEMO THAT CHARLES MANN WROTE TO ME
DATED JANUARY 30, 1974. MANN'S MEMO WAS DISCUSSED BY
SECRET

SECRET

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HIM DURING HIS SECOND HALF FEBRUARY CONSULTATION IN

WASHINGTON AND COPIES WERE LEFT BOTH WITH STATE AND
AID OFFICIALS. YOU MIGHT FIND IT ADVISABLE TO REQUEST
THIS DOCUMENT. ANTICIPATING THE POSSIBILITY IT MAY
HAVE BEEN MISLAID, I AM SENDING YOU COPY BY POUCH.

3. I WOULD LIKE TO REPEAT WHAT WE SAID IN REFERENCED
CABLES AND AM AS CONVINCED TODAY AS THEN THAT THE FORMATION
OF A LAOS DONOR GROUP IS MOST DESIRABLE AND IF IT CANNOT
BE DNE WITHIN INDOCHINA GROUP, IT SHOULD BE FORMED AS
A SPECIAL ENTITY.

4. CONGRATULATIONS ON THE GREAT JOB YOU DID. WARM
REGARDS.
WHITEHOUSE

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED TREASURY.

SECRET

NNN

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